

Thursday, April 6

First Day

*Independent Branches Made Wards:*

Hiawatha Ward, Carbon Stake, formerly Hiawatha Branch.

Downey Ward, South Los Angeles Stake, formerly Downey Branch.

*Ward Name Changed:*

Batesville Ward, Grantsville Stake, name changed to Erda Ward.

*Independent Branches Organized:*

Abraham Branch, Deseret Stake

Callao Branch, Nevada Stake

LaJolla Branch, San Diego Stake

Deseret Branch, Tooele Stake

Dragerton Branch, Carbon Stake

Adrian Branch, Weiser Stake

Tod Park Branch, Tooele Stake

*Independent Branches Discontinued:*

Rolapp Branch, Carbon Stake

Mercur Branch, Tooele Stake

Pegram Branch, Montpelier Stake

Richvale Branch, Teton Stake

*Branch Transferred from Mission to Stake:*

Allison Branch, Young Stake, formerly of the Western States Mission.

*Those Who Have Passed Away:*

May Booth Talmage, widow of the late James E. Talmage of the of the Council of the Twelve.

## STATISTICS

Number of Stakes of Zion—as of April 1, 1944.....	147
Number of Wards .....	1,137
Number of Independent Branches .....	124
Total Wards and Independent Branches .....	1,261
Number of Missions .....	40

*Church Membership:*

Stakes .....	774,161
Missions .....	162,889
Total .....	937,050

*Church Growth:*

Children blessed in the stakes and missions .....	26,361
Children baptized in the stakes and missions .....	14,485
Converts baptized in the stakes and missions .....	6,772

*Social Statistics:*

Birth rate per thousand .....	38.1
Marriage rate per thousand .....	14.6
Death rate per thousand .....	5.7

*Missionaries:*

Number of missionaries in the missions of the Church .....	852
Number engaged in missionary work in the stakes .....	2,473
Total missionaries .....	3,325
Number of missionaries who received training in the mission home during 1943 .....	204

**PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.***First Counselor in the First Presidency*

I will now read the Financial Statement of the Church.

As you have already been advised, the Church, for several years, has had a budget and makes its general appropriations in fourteen different items. The budgets are prepared and submitted to and approved by the Council on the Distribution of the Tithes. That council is composed of the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric. The appropriations are handled and the individual appropriations and individual projects approved by a committee of that body, consisting of the First Presidency, a committee from the Quorum of the Twelve, and the Presiding Bishopric.

**CHURCH DISBURSEMENTS, 1943****Part I—CHURCH BUDGET CASH EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS, BOTH TITHING AND NON-TITHING**

Total cash budget appropriation for 1943 .....\$5,064,340.00

Budget appropriations and expenditures were made as follows:

	Budget Appropriation for 1943	Budget Expenditures for 1943	1943 Expenditures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Office of the Corporation of the President?</i> Including salaries of 79 employees overhead expenses of offices, equipment, maintenance of the Administration Building, and the living allowances and traveling expenses of the General Authorities, all covered by non-tithing income .....	\$ 298,200.00	\$ 272,783.00	\$ 25,417.00

	Budget Appropriation for 1943	Budget Expenditures for 1943	1943 Expenditures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Office of the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop:</i>			
Including the salaries of 165 employees, office expenses and equipment, also including expenses of the Aaronic Priesthood program, traveling expenses of the Presiding Bishopric, property taxes special printing, and maintenance of the Motor Avenue supply storehouse ....	128,050.00	145,402.00	17,352.00 (deficit)
<i>Temples:</i>			
For the operating expenses, including all overhead expenses for 180 employees, and building maintenance, repairs, renovation, and landscaping of the Alberta, Arizona, Hawaiian, Idaho Falls, Logan, Manti, Saint George, and Salt Lake Temples .....	225,000.00	272,197.00	47,197.00 (deficit)
<i>Missions and Missionary Work:</i>			
For the maintenance and operating expense of the twenty missions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, and South America; living and traveling expenses of the mission presidents, return fares of missionaries; free literature; servicemen's welfare; the erection, remodeling, maintenance and renting of buildings; and the expenses of the Bureaus of Information in Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C., Carthage Jail (Illinois), Cumorah (Palmyra), and Joseph Smith Farm (South Royalton, Vermont), and the mission home in Salt Lake City .....	888,200.00	598,299.00	289,901.00
<i>Ward and Stake Maintenance Expenses:</i>			
For the maintenance of 1,269 ward and 146 stake buildings, expenses and mileage allowance to bishops and stake presidents; furnishings for ward and stake offices; stake and ward taxes; and stake and ward printing .....	960,600.00	965,424.00	4,824.00 (deficit)
<i>Church Welfare:</i>			
Assistance to the needy consisting of food, clothing, rents, light, heat, 557 medical welfare cases; burials; other			

	Budget Appropriation for 1943	Budget Expenditures for 1943	1943 Expenditures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
ward welfare assistance; workmen's compensation insurance on welfare projects and for carrying out the established program of the general welfare committee. This sum accounts for budget expenditures only, total welfare expenditures to follow in detail .....	365,453.00	125,833.00	239,620.00
<i>Church Schools:</i>			
For the operating expenses of Brigham Young University, Ricks College, and Juarez Stake Academy, and of 13 institutes and 99 seminaries; for the operating expenses of the Department of Education, including the salaries of 9 office employees, and for repairs and improvements to 47 buildings .....	831,155.00	818,562.00	12,593.00
<i>Educational Institutions (other than Church Schools, Institutes, and seminaries):</i>			
McCune School of Music and Art; Lund Home for Boys; Deseret Gymnasium; Society for the Aid of the Sightless; and the General Music Committee .....	31,720.00	19,536.00	12,184.00
<i>Building Operations:</i>			
For the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, Temple Block, except the Temple; for the maintenance of the Bishop's Building and other Church properties situated immediately adjacent to the Temple Block; for repairs and improvements on 321 ward buildings; for the salaries and traveling expenses of employees of the Church Building Department; and \$112,514.00 for the construction of hospitals buildings .....	943,800.00	881,610.00	62,190.00
<i>Historic Monuments and Properties:</i>			
For the repair and maintenance of properties at Palmyra, New York; South Royalton, Vermont; the Carthage Jail; and Memorial Cemeteries .....	16,864.00	12,485.00	4,379.00
<i>Indian Projects:</i>			
In the Papago and Washakie Wards. There is to be credited against this amount the returns from the 1943 crops .....	8,000.00	10,670.00	2,670.00 (deficit)

	Budget Appropriation for 1943	Budget Expenditures for 1943	1943 Expenditures Under or in Excess of Appropriation
<i>Church Committee on Radio and Publicity:</i>			
For publicity and mission literature.....	25,283.00	7,960.00	17,323.00
<i>Genealogical Society of Utah and Index Bureau:</i>			
To assist with the operating expenses of this organization, including the salaries of 121 employees .....	118,555.00	138,410.00	19,855.00 (deficit)
<i>Other Expenses:</i>			
Consisting of contributions to civic or organizations such as the Red Cross, Community Chest, etc.; salaries of Tabernacle Choir conductors and organists; legal expenses; contributions to hospitals, welfare assistance by the General Church Office; public liability and other insurance, etc. ....	223,460.00	121,479.00	101,981.00
	<u>\$5,064,340.00</u>	<u>\$4,390,650.00</u>	<u>\$673,690.00</u>

All unexpended balances are covered back into the unappropriated funds of the Church. Appropriated for the foregoing purposes for the year 1944, \$5,326,239.00.

#### Part II—CHURCH NON-BUDGET CASH EXPENDITURES, 1943, FROM CONTRIBUTIONS, OTHER THAN TITHING COLLECTED FROM THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The expenditures budgeted from general Church funds are detailed above. The following expenditures were made from further contributions made by members of the wards, stakes, and missions of the Church:

Toward the erection of new ward and stake buildings and the remodeling of existing ones .....	\$ 637,928.00
Budget payments and other contributions by wards and branches for maintenance purposes, as also for expenses of the ward and branch auxiliary organizations and for recreation .....	1,342,022.00
Ward and Mission fast offerings, Welfare contributions, and ward assistance to missionaries .....	723,322.00
Expended from General Board dues and children's contributions to Primary Hospital .....	81,605.00
Expended by the General Welfare Committee .....	74,670.00
Additional income, derived by the Church schools from tuition fees and other sources .....	291,915.00

Disbursements by the Relief Society for direct assistance and for General Welfare purposes and health work .....	95,425.00
Total non-budget cash expenditures, 1943, from contributions other than tithing, collected from the Church membership....	3,246,887.00
Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick in addition to the amount included in Part I from tithes .....	34,532.00
Total budget cash expenditure by General Church Offices brought forward from preceding page .....	4,390,650.00
Total cash expenditures, budget and non-budget of entire Church .....	\$ 7,672,069.00

## Part III—THE CHURCH WELFARE PROGRAM

A. *Fast Offering Data:*

Number of Church members who paid voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions:

In the Wards .....	149,820
In the Missions .....	23,190

Total ..... 173,010

Per cent of Church membership who paid fast offerings...24%

Average fast offerings per capita in wards .....75.7c

Average fast offerings per capita in missions ..... 37c

Average fast offerings per capita—stakes and missions...69.9c

B. *Welfare Program Cash Expenditures:*

Amount of voluntary fast offerings and welfare contributions:

In the Wards:	
Fast Offerings .....	\$463,935.00
Welfare Contributions .....	186,098.00

In the Missions:	
Fast Offerings .....	39,931.00

Total (included in non-budget cash expenditures) .....\$689,964.00

Disbursed by the Relief Society for direct assistance and for general Welfare purposes and health work .....	\$ 95,425.00
Disbursed by the General Welfare Committee for direct assistance and for General Welfare purposes .....	74,670.00
Disbursed by the Office of General Authorities for direct assistance (included in non-budget cash expenditures) .....	19,977.00
Expended from the tithes for general and local Welfare purposes .....	6,816.00
Expended by the hospitals for the care of the sick in addition to the amount included in the disbursements from the tithes.....	34,532.00
Total Relief Cash Expenditures for the year (all included above in grand total of budget and non-budget cash expenditure) .....	\$921,384.00

In addition to the foregoing cash expenditures of \$921,384.00 for welfare purposes, the General Church Welfare Committee makes the following further financial report with the statement indicating the production and distribution of commodities for Bishops' Storehouses in 1943, inventory of commodities, December 31, 1943:

Thursday, April 6

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## C. Summary of the Church Welfare Program Financial Report:

The Present Net Cash Value of the Program is:

Current Assets (net) .....	\$ 326,372.57
Inventories (principally commodities) .....	606,470.33
Fixed Assets (land, buildings, etc.) .....	1,343,347.12
Total .....	\$ 2,276,190.02

The Fixed Assets Consist of:

Deseret Industries; Deseret Mills and Elevators; Welfare Square buildings, elevators, canneries, milk processing plants, root cellar, etc.; Deseret Clothing Factory; Emery Coal Mine; and the housing and other projects. Ninety Bishops' Storehouses which have a total floor area of 230,000 square feet, and include in connection therewith, sixty-five canneries. Farms, ranches, dairies, and other regional and stake properties made up of 3,033 acres of land together with buildings, improvements, and livestock.

The Fixed Assets Were Required by:

Cash from General Committee supplied out of Church funds .....	\$ 417,057.01
Cash from Church Units .....	668,693.88
Donations, Labor and Property .....	268,496.23
Total .....	\$ 1,343,347.12

The Fixed Assets Consist of:

Land .....	\$ 312,357.14
Buildings .....	808,583.24
Equipment .....	160,340.61
Furniture and Fixtures .....	38,392.13
Livestock .....	23,674.00
Total .....	\$ 1,343,347.12

## D. Production, Distribution, and Inventory of Bishop's Storehouse Commodities:

Items	Unit	1943 Production	1943 Distribution	Inventory December 31, 1943
Canned Produce, Milk, Vegetables, Fruits, Jams and spreads.....	quarts	1,240,000	189,100	1,659,000
Animal Products (Butter, Eggs, and Meats) .....	pounds	116,500	200,000	165,000
Vegetables, Fruits, Sugar, Grains, and Grain Products .....	pounds	5,070,000	1,120,000	2,290,000
Other Foods (49 different items).....	pounds	9,400	52,500	27,500
Various Drugs and Household Supplies .....	items	54,000	3,678	12,400
Hay, Cotton, Seeds (Grains) .....	pounds	301,000	.....	3,600,000
Fuel (mostly coal) .....	tons	340	2,600	1,900
Clothing and Dry Goods (247 different items) .....	articles	8,015	54,840	67,485

## E. Activities of the Program During 1943, in Canning and Processing for Storehouse Program:

Vegetables, Fruits, Jams and Spreads.....	838,000 quarts	(1,300,000 cans)
Meat, Fish, and Fowl .....	30,800 pounds	( 33,800 cans)
Milk, canned (each can equivalent to one quart of fresh milk) .....	225,000 cans	( 225,000 cans)
Miscellaneous Foods (Spices, Flavorings, etc.) .....	4,000 pounds	
Flour and Cereals .....	320,000 pounds	

*F. Canning Done by Individual Groups Using Welfare Canneries:*

Fruits and Vegetables .....	3,832,000	quarts	(7,227,200 cans)
Meat and Fish .....	27,300	pounds	( 22,800 cans)
Total Cans .....	8,808,800		

*G. Wheat Storage:*

Bushels of wheat stored in Church-owned bins as of April, 1944:

Relief Society owned .....	387,151
Welfare Program owned .....	8,302
	395,453

Estimated value \$553,634.00 @ \$1.40 per bushel

This wheat would furnish bread for 66,000 people for one year. The Program is prepared to process this wheat through its own mills, the Deseret Flour Mills, formerly the Kaysville Flour Mills.

*H. Field Activities:*

To produce the Welfare Budget, there were 1,015 crop projects, 669 livestock projects, and 55 manufacturing projects carried on during the year 1943. The crop projects utilized 3,089 acres of land. The livestock projects produced 2,649 head of livestock, 12,200 chickens and rabbits, and 204 stands of bees.

In addition to the foregoing, there were 582 crop projects, 221 livestock projects, and 34 manufacturing projects operated during 1943 for purposes other than operation of the Bishops' Storehouses. These projects utilized 2,100 acres of land and produced 1,010 head of livestock and 2,740 chickens and rabbits.

*I. Assistance Rendered:*

During 1943 assistance was extended to 17,913 persons by the Welfare Program. Since the Welfare Program was set up in 1936, a total of 291,142 persons received assistance. Since the beginning of the Welfare Program, more than 750 families have been rehabilitated and are now self-supporting.

*Assistance Rendered in Construction Projects*

There have been 1,475 construction projects completed in addition to the construction for the bishops' storehouse program.

## REPORT OF THE CHURCH AUDITING COMMITTEE

Elder Orval W. Adams read the following report of the Church Auditing Committee:

Salt Lake City, Utah  
March 31, 1944

President Heber J. Grant and Counselors  
47 East South Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Brethren:

The review of the 1943 annual financial report of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by your committee discloses that the Church is in the strongest financial position in all its history.

The Church is not in debt. There are no mortgages on any of its properties. The sustained authorities are administering prudently the



sacred funds entrusted to them by the tens of thousands of devoted members, most of whom are of small means.

Respectfully Submitted,

Orval W. Adams,  
Albert E. Bowen  
Geo. S. Spencer,  
Harold H. Bennett,

*Church Finance and  
Auditing Committee*

**PRESIDENT GEORGE ALBERT SMITH**

*President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles*

I am just trying to collect my thoughts, after listening to that remarkable report of the financial condition of the Church. I am somewhat amused, too, because only a few days ago one of our citizens here in Salt Lake City told a friend of his in confidence that the Church was tremendously in debt.

**GRATITUDE FOR BLESSINGS**

I am grateful to our Heavenly Father this morning for the privilege of being here in this opening session of our general conference. I have been inspired by the opportunity I have had of shaking hands with many of my brethren. It is always a joy to me to see you come here, from all parts of the Church, to wait upon the Lord, and to participate in the activities of the conferences that are held from time to time.

As I look into your faces today, I realize that here is a very fine cross-section of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and I don't know where anybody could go in the world to witness a finer group of men in worship than we have here today.

I am grateful that President Grant was able to be with us. It is a marvel to me how his life has been preserved. Three times, to my knowledge, his life has been despaired of by those who are close to him, and he has been healed by the power of the Lord. Today is an evidence of what can come to an individual who lives a righteous life. He has always been active and a hard worker, and yet today, at eighty-seven years of age, he comes to us to enjoy part of conference, though his limited strength requires that he return to his home and rest before he can come back again.

I trust that I may have the benefit of your faith and prayers, that I may be led to say something that will be helpful, something that may cause us to feel that it is a privilege to be identified with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When we realize the situation that people of the world are confronting everywhere, when we pause long enough to consider that the world is in a critical condition, that the destruction of life and property goes on and increases as the days go by, we may be grateful that we have benefited by those who were our forebears,